

THE INDEPENDENT

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1919

NO 572

WELCOME TO ELIZABETH CITY JULY 4

PASQUOTANK COMMISSION CALLS STATE AID BLUFF

Joins With District Highway Commission in Petition For State and Federal Funds For Edenton-Norfolk Project

The Pasquotank Highway Commission has called the bluff of Chairman Page of the State Highway Commission and confounded those small persons who have been charging that the Pasquotank Highway Commission is standing in the way of the proposed district highway between Edenton and the Virginia State Line.

The Pasquotank Highway Commission this week adopted a resolution in which it joins with the Northeastern North Carolina Highway Commission in application for State and Federal aid for the district highway.

It is now up to Chairman Page of the State Highway Commission. The State Commission has supreme authority to approve or reject any application for State and Federal Aid. If the State Highway Commission thinks the Edenton-Norfolk proposition is more entitled to State and Federal aid than county projects; if they will let the Edenton Norfolk highway in preference to county projects, then it is up to the State Commission and the Pasquotank Highway Commission is not going to criticize its action.

Here is the resolution adopted by the Pasquotank Highway Commission Tuesday, July 1:—

Whereas the Pasquotank Highway Commission feel that both the Weeks-Elizabeth City Highway and the Edenton-Norfolk Highway projects are both worthy of State and Federal Aid; and whereas applications have been made for both State and Federal Aid on both projects, which aid we understand cannot be granted on the Edenton-Norfolk Highway unless our commission join in the application for such aid;

Therefore, (tho in our opinion and we believe, in the opinion of a majority of our citizens, the county development of this section is of greater importance to the counties themselves and to the entire section, than the construction of the Edenton-Norfolk highway), we realize that the Edenton-Norfolk highway will serve a considerable social and economic need and in order to remove any technicality that might prevent the State Highway Commission from passing favorably on the Edenton-Norfolk Highway application and to enable the State Highway Commission to properly and promptly consider both applications for aid;

We hereby join the Northeastern North Carolina Highway Commission in their application for State and Federal Aid on the Edenton-Norfolk Highway, without withdrawing our application for aid on our county projects.

This newspaper does not believe that the State Highway Commission will grant State and Federal Aid to either Pasquotank county of the district project. The cards seem to be stacked against this corner of the State.

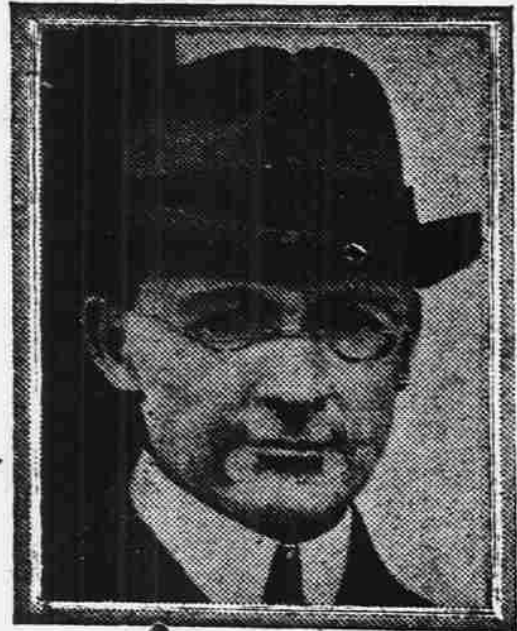
The odds are strong against the proposed district highway because the District Highway Commission hasn't any money to begin with. The proposed road will cost a million and a half dollars. The maximum amount of State and Federal aid that could be obtained for the road would be three quarters of a million dollars, provided the District Commission had three quarters of a million dollar to start. The District Commission hasn't a cent. Some time ago they offered half a million dollars worth of bonds for sale and could get bids on only a quarter of a million. The high bidder for the quarter million never has taken up the bonds and the District Commission has only his certified check for \$500 to fall back on. The District Highway Commission probably will have to wait for the special session of the General Assembly in 1920, to so amend and correct the Ferebee District Highway bill as to make the building of the road possible.

NEGROES ON EXCURSION TO EDENTON WEDNESDAY

Elizabeth City colored folk will enjoy a big excursion to Edenton, N. C., Wednesday, July 9. The steamer "Annie L. Vanciver" has been chartered for the occasion, to leave this city at 7 a. m., returning, leave Edenton at 7 p. m. The excursionists will have an opportunity to see a lively game of football between the Carolina Dicks and the Edenton Quicksteps, at Edenton, and p. m. Henry C. Hargraves and Geo. L. White will manage the excursion.

"Bladder Shinbone's Idea. "An eye personally qualified with his 'eye' remarked Shinsbone, "but all people he ain't nuffin' no' dan a certain comical-looking insect' who is military training."—Boston Transcript.

"D" IS FOR DEFICIT



WALKER D. HINES, Director General of Railroads, whose middle initial is now admitted to stand for "deficit" because the Government-controlled railroads under his direction continue to pile up balances on the wrong side of the ledger. Mr. Hines is also blamed or credited with having kicked over the government plan to maintain prices

CITY EXPECTING THRONGS TODAY

Airplanes and Horse Races The Big Events of The 4th.

The biggest crowds ever congregated in eastern North Carolina are expected to be in Elizabeth City today, to take in the biggest Fourth of July celebration which has ever been staged in the history of this section.

Fast horse race at the new fair grounds will be a highly interesting feature of the day's events, and for the benefit of persons who may be confused by the fact that there are two fair grounds near this city. THE INDEPENDENT suggests that the shortest and best road to the new fair grounds is directly out Martin street and the Euclid Heights road. The grounds are located a scant mile from the city limits.

The racing program as outlined by the Fair Association is by far the best event of its kind ever attempted in this part of the State, and the four big races planned will take place in the afternoon, beginning at 2:30. Some of the fastest horses in North Carolina will participate in the various races and an attempt will be made to lower the World's track record. The race track is in the very best of condition, and record breaking crowds are expected to attend these races, which will be the big event of the day.

At 10 o'clock in the morning the U. S. Naval hydroplanes will arrive here, and will give exhibition flights over the city and the blue waters of the Pasquotank, giving many people their first opportunity to view these man-made birds of the air.

SUBSCRIPTION DANCE TONIGHT

A subscription dance will be given at the Robinson building Friday night, July Fourth. The dance will start promptly at 9 o'clock, and the music will be furnished by Sam Simmon's orchestra of Norfolk. Tickets may be secured from Kramer Davis or Latimer Commander.

ALL DONE IN A DAY

Out of town people who come to Elizabeth City for eye glasses can have their eyes tested, glasses made and fitted the same day by Hathaway service. No need to wait a week for some one to order glasses for you. I have my own grinding plant and not only prescribe the glasses you need but make and fit them on the premises. It saves a lot of time as well as lot of middlemen's expenses.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
Optometrist
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

HEADS WAR INQUIRY BY CONGRESS



Congressman William J. Graham, of Illinois, chairman of the House Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, will preside over one of the most important investigations to be undertaken by Congress at this session. The Committee, of which Mr. Graham is chairman, is to make a searching inquiry into the way the people's money was spent in the war.

TOM HAYMAN RAISES A CROP OF TOBACCO

And Shows That This Money Crop Will Grow Fine in Pasquotank

Tom Hayman of Elizabeth City, who builds yachts for a living and indulges in a little intensive farming on the side, has a patch of tobacco 5 weeks old that reaches above his waist. A Granville county tobacco grower who was down here last week says that Hayman's tobacco is prettier and more luxuriant in growth than any he had seen in his home county, which is in the banner tobacco section of North Carolina.

Hayman has made a careful study of tobacco culture, and any farmer who wishes to clean up some coin on this highly profitable crop can get the dope from him. He plans to air-cure his tobacco, having plenty of shed room for the purpose. Veteran tobacco growers claim that this is the surest and best way to produce the clean bright leaf that has the highest commercial value.

Pasquotank county farmers have never taken hold of tobacco as a money crop. The few sporadic attempts heretofore made to grow tobacco in this county, undertaken by men who had neither experience nor knowledge of how to care for the crop, have naturally produced discouraging results. It remained for Hayman to go after the proposition in the right way, and show that tobacco can be raised here as well as anywhere else in the State. Perquimans county farmers have already taken up tobacco growing on a small scale.

SIBLEY'S SUPERB SHOWS PLEASES LARGE CROWDS

Biggest and Best Aggregation of Carnival Attraction Seen Here in a Long Time

Elizabeth City has a real street fair this week; Sibley's Superb Shows have taken the town. And Sibley outfit is the biggest, liveliest, cleanest and most entertaining aggregation of carnival attractions exhibited in this city in a long long time. The Chamber of Commerce wouldn't have tolerated anything but a set of clean shows.

The Sibley Shows, having the support of the Chamber of Commerce, did not have to pitch their tents on a suburban show lot. They put up their tents in the very heart of the town. Beginning on Water Street at Main the concessions and smaller shows stretch down to Lawrence street. Thence thru Lawrence street the shows are spread out till they reach Euclid avenue. On Euclid avenue, between Lawrence and Shepard streets there is a vacant stretch of land lying along side of the Episcopal cemetery. Here the Sibley Shows have staged their big attractions. There by the little city of the dead is life and noise and merriment enough to bring the shades of the buried forth to inquire what it is all about.

There are several worth while attractions with the Sibley Shows. The Wild Animal Show, Athletic Arena, Monkey Speedway, Motordrome, Museum of Wonders, etc. are pleasing large crowds nightly and the young and thrills every hour on the merry-go-round, the ferris wheel and the more exciting whips. Sibley's Superb Shows play Elizabeth City all this week.

RECITAL AT DUFF'S
A recital by the pupils of Miss Baker's music school, given at the Duff Piano Co. store Tuesday night was attended by a large crowd. The program was well rendered and pleasing.

WHY ROBERTSON QUIT THE GIANTS

Former Elizabeth City Southpaw Likes Wholesale Produce Business—And His Family

Davis Robertson, once southpaw of the Elizabeth City base ball team, who went from Elizabeth City to the New York Giants has quit the game and settled down to business in Norfolk, Va. Davis Robertson quit the Giants just a few weeks ago, after having signed up for the season of 1919 and has gone into the wholesale produce business with his father, Chas. R. Robertson, at 25 Roanoke Ave., Norfolk.

Davis Robertson was a great pitcher and a great batter when he was playing in Elizabeth City. It didn't take the big Leagues long to find him and John McGraw of the New York Giants took him in hand. McGraw would have had another Ty Cobb in Davis Robertson, but Robertson hurt his shoulder and had to be transferred to the outfield. As an outfielder he was even a greater success than he was in the pitcher's box. Fans say that Robertson pulled down \$8,000 with the Giants last year.

But Davis Robertson is temperamental. He has a strong head as well as a strong arm and won't stand bullying. John McGraw is something of a bully McGraw and Robertson never did get along very well together.

About two years ago Robertson married a Richmond, Va. girl and she has presented him with a baby. Robertson wanted to be near that wife and baby this summer and he asked McGraw to send him to Washington Mrs. Robertson and the baby were to have spent the summer in Richmond, just three hours ride from Washington.

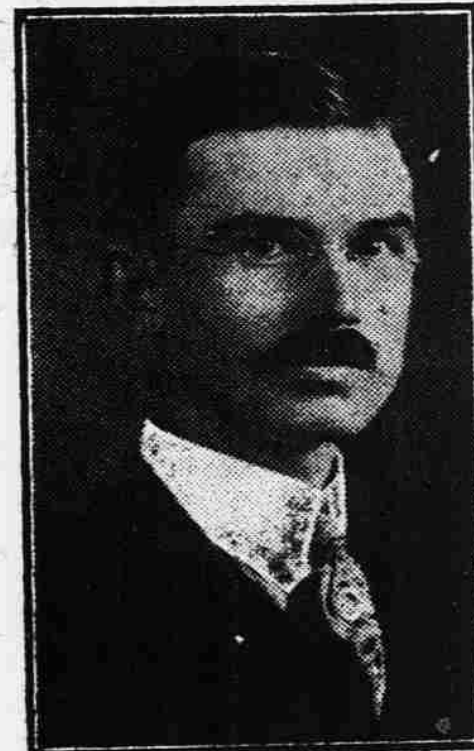
But instead of sending Robertson to Washington McGraw told him to go to St. Louis. And right there Robertson kicked out. Robertson wouldn't go to St. Louis; he handed in his resignation to Manager McGraw, packed his clothes and returned to his family.

Talking to the writer of this newspaper this week Davis Robertson says he is done with base ball. He says he played ball, not because he ever liked it, but because he never could see a way out of it since it had been discovered that he could play. He thinks he will feel more contented in the wholesale produce business, a business successfully established by his father more than a quarter of a century ago and to-day one of the leading houses of its kind in the booming city of Norfolk.

Friday July 4
BEING
A Legal Holiday
All Elizabeth City
Banks Closed
All Day

CITY MANAGER SIMONDS ON JOB

Says He Will Not Turn Things Upside Down At Once



FRED W. SIMONDS

City Manager, Fred W. Simonds who entered upon his official duties here Monday morning, tells this newspaper that he will not turn the town upside down any time soon. He says he shall feel his way cautiously and tackle one problem at a time until he has got his bearings.

But City Manager Simonds indicates that he may turn some things upside down before he has been here very long.

The new City Manager doesn't like the condition of our streets. The new City Manager doesn't like the fact that we have 1800 ground toilets within the corporate limits of the city.

The new City Manager doesn't like our public water supply. He expresses these particular dislikes without equivocation.

This newspaper also learns that City Manager Simonds is in favor of compulsory sewerage; in favor of a woman sanitary inspector and in favor of a Community Center building to house the city administration and the Chamber of Commerce and to provide auditorium and recreation facilities for the whole town. Simonds comes from a section of the country where people are doing big things and he is not afraid of big ideas.

For the time being City Manager Simonds will not disturb any of the appointive offices. He will work along as best he can with the old crowd holding over from the old administration and will weed them out only when he is sure of filling their jobs with better material.

A CITIZEN HAS SOME VIEWS ON ROAD PAVING

Says Pasquotank County Can Not Afford to Experiment With Excessively Costly Concrete

(A Communication)
On Monday, June 30th, the Pasquotank Highway Commission received bids for the construction of the road from Elizabeth City to Weeksville. There were several bids received on various types of construction, using all kinds of material; in fact the bids were as varied as Joseph's coat of many colors. As this is the first road to be built by the County the Commissioners undoubtedly will be careful in selecting the material for building the road. Bids were offered on brick, concrete, rock asphalt and asphalt, and these bids were sub-divided as to different types of foundation etc.

The Commissioners are keen, level-headed business men, but we believe it is beyond them to unravel the tangle of 1-1 1/2-3, 1-3-6, 1-4 and other mixtures of materials, the beam strength of brick, concrete and asphalt, the breaking strength, the tensile strength and all other kinds of strengths, which we have heard talked about at the letting and on the street corner. Fortunately the County Engineer Higgs, has a man who understands the strength of materials their proper proportions, and who will design his roads for durability and economy. Any fool can make a road or a bridge "strong enough", by wasting the taxpayer's money by over-designing it, but it takes an Engineer to design a structure for durability and economy.

(Concluded on page 2)
Woman's Way.
Sometimes a woman would rather get nervous prostration than not to have her own way at all.—Galveston News.

THE BIDS ON WEEKSVILLE ROAD ENTIRELY TOO HIGH

Pasquotank Highway Commission Rejects All Bids For Construction of First Nine Miles of Permanent Roads in This County

WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH VANN?

School Board Meets Monday And Whole County Is Astir

Monday, July 7 is the date upon which the Pasquotank County Board of Education will hold its first monthly meeting for the school year 1919-20 and the people of the entire county are wondering just what the board will do upon the Superintendent question. Rumors are current that at least on member of the board will change his decision of the June meeting, and if that should be the case, Prof. P. S. Vann will be re-elected to the office of County Superintendent.

Not quite a year ago Prof. Hinton, then Superintendent, was compelled on account of ill health to tender his resignation to the board, and Prof. Vann at the time Superintendent of the Gates county schools, was appointed to fill the vacancy. A few months ago Prof. Vann was informed by J. M. LeRoy, chairman of the board, that his services would not be needed after July first, and that he might look elsewhere for a job.

During Vann's period of office the schools of Pasquotank county prospered as never before in their whole history. People everywhere through his efforts began to become aroused to the need of bigger and better schools and State high schools were voted for in different sections of the county. In spite of the flu and other epidemics the schools flourished and a school spirit developed, the like of which had never been known in Pasquotank. Consequently when Prof. Vann's dismissal—for it was virtually that—became known throughout the county, a storm of protest was raised, which culminated in the appearance at the June meeting of the Board of Education, of committees from all parts of the county, demanding satisfactory reasons for the surprising action of the board, and Vann's retention as County Superintendent if such reasons were not given.

J. M. LeRoy, W. A. Foster and W. G. Cox, the members of the board consistently refused to give any definite and satisfactory reasons for their course in the matter, and persistently refused to pledge themselves to any course of action, but plainly showed by their attitude that they did not propose to re-elect Vann. It has since been rumored that Cox has experienced at least a partial change of heart, and has agreed to vote for Vann's retention, provided Vann can answer satisfactorily a mysterious question which Cox intends to ask him. In the event of an unsatisfactory answer according to the rumor, Cox will resign from the board and permit the appointment of some other man to the place.

In view of the fact that W. A. Foster will go out of office at the July meeting, and will be supplanted by D. W. Morgan of Providence, an avowed supporter of Vann, it appears that Cox's action will virtually control the situation as to Vann's retention or dismissal, and it is certain that the coming meeting will be a highly unpleasant one for the County Board of Education if any determined move is made to oust Vann from the position which he has apparently filled so ably and efficiently.

JUNIORS WILL FEAST AT SALEM SATURDAY

Visiting Lodge Members To Be Entertained With Old Fashion Picnic

Weeksville Council No. 245, Jr. O. U. A. M. will entertain visitors to the District Meeting of Juniors, with an old fashioned picnic at Salem Baptist church Saturday afternoon, July 5, from 2 p. m. to 6:30 p. m. An old fashioned picnic dinner will be served at 4:30 p. m. Seven northeastern counties will be represented at the District Meeting. Several speakers will address the crowd, including Hon. Woodus Kellum, of Wilmington N. C.

HEAVY TOBACCO SMOKE
Two firemen were killed and \$4,000,000 worth of property destroyed when the old Garret Winery near the Berkley Ferry, Norfolk, Va. was burned to the ground Monday afternoon. The biggest financial loser in the fire was the Imperial Tobacco Co. who had millions of dollars worth of tobacco stored in the building.

The Pasquotank Highway Commission opened bids for nine miles of hard surfaced road from Elizabeth City to Weeksville on Monday, June 30 and promptly rejected every bid.

The bids that were opened Monday called for a 15 foot road, to be built of brick or concrete. The lowest bid for brick was \$2.77 a yard for nothing but brick laid on the natural road foundation and grouted with cement.

The lowest bid for concrete was \$3.13 a square yard for a monolithic mixture 7 1/2 inches thick in the center and tapering to 5 1/2 inches thick on each side.

With only \$500,000 to spend this year, the Pasquotank Highway Commission could not see more than 15 miles of improved road in this county at the figures submitted at Monday's meeting.

County Road Engineer T. L. Higgs says the bids were entirely too high and that if no better bids can be obtained Pasquotank should buy her own material and build her own roads, saving \$5,000 or more per mile.

The most dependable bidder on concrete was Porter-Lassiter & Co., of Norfolk. They obligated to lay a narrow gauge rail road from Elizabeth City to Weeksville to haul material for the proposed road and to handle all material over this rail road with locomotives, thus expediting construction and insuring better construction generally. But they want \$3.13 a square yard and there are 8,800 square yards to a mile of road 15 feet wide. That's equivalent to \$27,544 a mile.

The Pasquotank Highway Commission is getting out new specifications and will give contractors another opportunity to bid. If the bids don't show up right Pasquotank will steer clear of contractors. One contractor is said to have made no secret of the fact that he figured in a profit of \$50,000 for himself on the construction of the proposed nine miles of road.

The Highway Commission has not committed itself to any type of road construction, but facts brought out in the opening of bids Monday disclosed many things in favor of brick. The Commissioners are convinced that they can tell something about a brick, but they are no longer certain that they know anything about concrete or what sort of job they will get if they try to get a cheap bid for concrete construction. The Commissioners are beginning to find out that contractors can build a concrete road to cost almost any amount one wants to put in it. It's all a matter of sifting in more sand and leaving out more cement.

The high cost of construction of 15 foot roads is giving the Highway Commission considerable pause. Again the question of nine foot roads has been revived and several members of the commission are in favor of building 15 foot roads only within five miles of town, using nine foot construction for more remote distances. The type of nine foot road suggested would be on the right hand side of the road coming into town, with a dirt road to the left. The farmer coming into town with a load would keep to the paving; the man going out unloaded would have to turn out with one wheel on the dirt road when he met a vehicle coming in.

ONLY THE LEGISLATURE CAN UNSEAT SAUNDERS

Attorney General Manning Heard From.—To Unseat Saunders Would Upset the General Assembly

Busy bodies and politicians who think they can deprive W. O. Saunders of his seat in the General Assembly because he has accepted a commission as a trustee of the State Normal School at Elizabeth City, may find their task not so easy.

In an opinion given Representative Saunders this week, Attorney General James S. Manning says: "A member of the Legislature is on a different footing with reference to the effect of his accepting another office during his term, from any other officer. Only the Legislature itself can interfere and if it did declare Representative Saunders' office vacant, the declaration would affect a large minority of its own members."

As pointed out by this newspaper last week, many members of the Legislature are serving on the Board of Trustees of various state institutions. To unseat Representative Saunders for this technical violation of a constitutional law, would set a precedent and disorganize the General Assembly. The Legislature will probably let the Saunders case severely alone and frown down the cheap politicians who are plotting this mischief.